



THE PELLEGRINI FAMILY
PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORIES



ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book is dedicated to Pasquale Pellegrini and Giovanna DiBona, my maternal grandparents. They were both born in San Donato val di Comino, originally a medieval hill town at the entrance to the Abruzzo National Park, half-way between Rome and Naples. After working in New York as teens, Pasquale and his brother, Donato, returned to Italy to marry and emigrate to the New World... AMERICA... where the streets were paved with gold. A new start in a new land for these ambitious, bright young idealists; willing to leave home and family to work hard in a country with limitless potential, so that their descendants could enjoy the fruits of their labor. We give thanks to them. FJV





Antonio and Orazia Pellegrini were married in 1883, and raised four children in a house next to the *Santuario San Donato*. Pasquale and Donato were both married in a double wedding ceremony on January 13, 1908. They then left to seek their fortunes. Their wives, Ninetta and Pasqua, followed them to New York settling later in Baltimore. Luigi and Maria came later, both settling in Boston. The parents joined them in 1919, after their children were settled and could afford passage and were able to care for them. The family house was left in the care of relatives who were forced to leave for Rome after World War II. Squatters occupied the house until 1984 when an earthquake rendered it uninhabitable. The government paid for a new roof and to reinforce the walls. A cousin still living nearby reminded us that the house still legally belonged to our family so we started court proceedings to regain it. The process took 14 years to win several of the squatters desperate appeals. Lineage was certified; reconstruction was started in 2000 and was completed in 2002.



Pasquale and Ninetta had 10 children; Donato and Pasqua had nine. All lived in Little Italy, a few blocks apart and practically grew up together, going to church and school with each other. They celebrated many milestones as a close knit band of first cousins who were best friends.



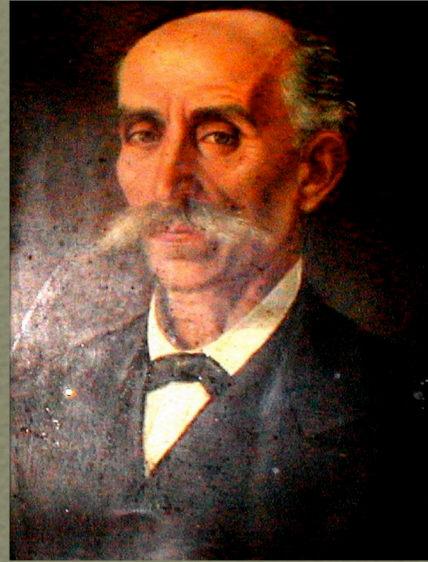
Marietta Pellegitini Rufo and Luigi Pellegrini settled in Brighton, Massachusetts, in an area of many other *San Donatese*. Newton, Mass. is the "sister city" to *San Donato*; the road to the *Santuario* is named "Newton Way." All ten of their children were referred to as the "Boston Cousins."



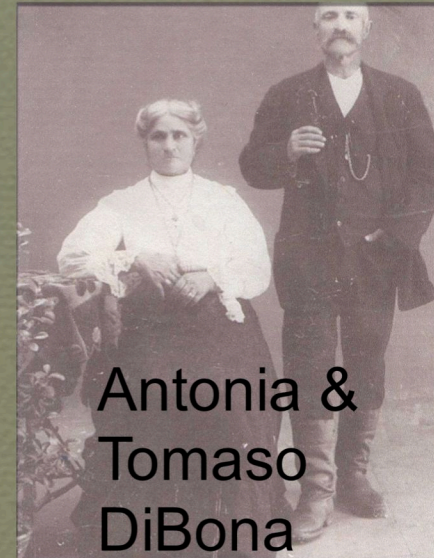
Antonio and Orazia (Graziella) would divide their time between Boston and Baltimore, several years at a time, from the 1920's to the 1940's, looking after their brood of 29 grandchildren.



ORAZIA SALVUCCI PELLEGRINI, in a 1919 passport photo, left.
TOMASO DiBONA, Ninetta's father, was the town postmaster, right.



Antonia Salvucci DiBona



Antonia &
Tomaso
DiBona

Tomaso and Antonia DiBona lived at 107 *via Napoli, Piazza IV Novembre*, in downtown San Donato, with their seven children. Center bottom, Ninetta was the next to youngest; Serafina, the youngest, was also a Baltimore resident, and lived close by in Little Italy



A charcoal portrait of Ninetta as a young lady; Pasquale, top, as a waiter in New York at his Uncle Cesidio Salvucci's bar at age 16, and lower, performing his military service at age 18.



Marescialo Carlo Quintiliani served in Ethiopia, Somalia and India; as well as in the Brazilzn Consulate (Rio de Janiero, 1950). He and Maria retired in the DiBona ancestral home for an additional 40 years, where he wrote several books and participated in long distance races. He was **the** major instrumental force in the legal process to regain the ancestral Pellegrini home.



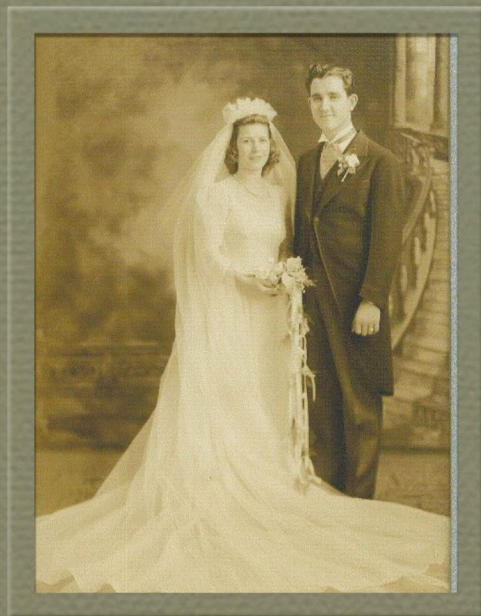
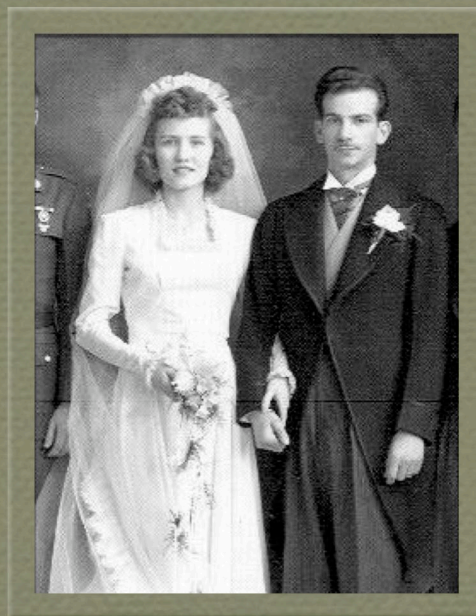
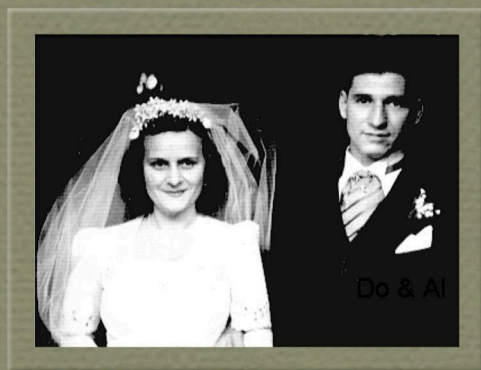
Marietta, Donato, Mother (Orazia Salvucci Pellegrini) , and Luigi in Boston in the late 1920's. Only Antonio, the father, and brother Pasquale are missing. Before color photography, black and white photos had oil paints lightly applied to simulate skin tones, clothing and greenery.



This 1928 photo, taken at Mount Vernon, enabled the immigrants to connect with the history of their families' new heritage. L to R: Carmella, Ninetta (holding Antoinette), Pasquale, Donato, Pasqua (with Nicky, Lucy and Robert in front). Cousin Rose, Aunt Lizabetta Salvucci Baccari (Orazia's sister), Jennie, Uncle Pasquale Baccari, Jerry and Giovanna Baccari



Carmella Josephine Pellegrini, still in her teens, one of the few females to get a driver's license. Upper right, as a bridesmaid for Carl Julio & Anna Olga's wedding. Below, as a bride to Frank A. Verdecchia, April 27, 1930, at St. Leo's Church. Wedding reception at 400 W. Fayette St.



Top, Donata and Albert Bavato; Jane Stefanowitz and John; Mary and Ernest (Bunky) Bayley. Bottom, Biagina (Bessie) and Adolph Bucci; Ann, bridesmaid to all; Antoinette and John Pica. Formal church weddings at St. Leo's were the order of the day, as were large catered receptions at various halls to honor the large extended families of relatives and business associates.



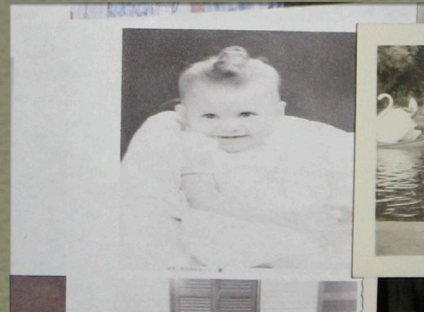
Upper Left: Mary, 1928; Upper Right: Nicky, 1929
Lower Left: Antoinette, 1929; Lower Right, Buddy & Junior, 1930



Twins Anthony and Frank (Buddy & Junior) were only three years older than their first nephew, also the first grandchild. Buddy, Junior and Sonny grew up almost as brothers, going to movies, drum corps, swimming, and conniving together. The 1939 Pierce-Arrow limo was needed for a large family, and for long road trips to visit relatives in Philadelphia, New York and Boston.



First Communion was a significant coming of age event, as was confirmation.
Upper: Carmella and Antoinette. Lower: Frank and Buddy & Junior



There were twenty-one grandchildren, spanning 33 years, starting in 1932 and progressing to 1965. The older ones remember 911 Granby Street, "LIL ITALY" and shopping at Lombard St. "JEW TOWN." The move to Berger Avenue in Gardenville, was in 1945, after World War II

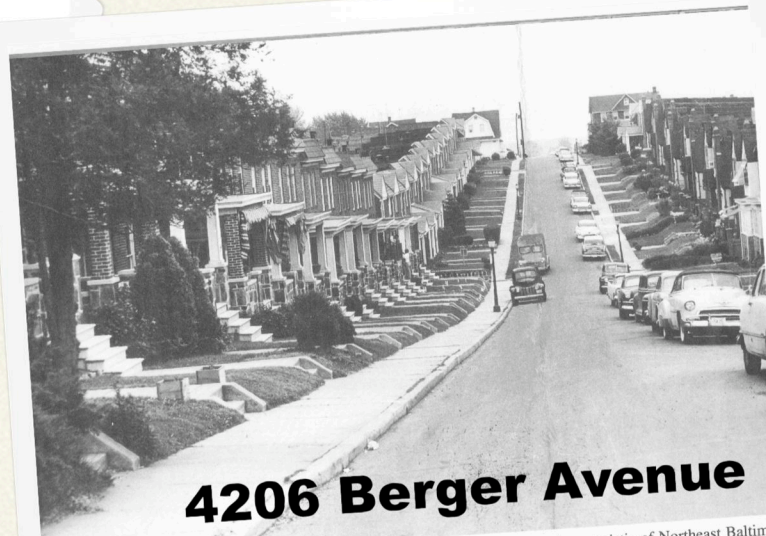


The Pellegrini sisters were called "THE SIX CHICKS" by their adoring nieces and nephews. All eight of the in-law spouses, pictured here with Ninetta -- the Mother-in-Law they all had in common. At family gatherings, they were affectionately referred to as "THE OUTLAWS."



Spring 1947 Berger Av.

Berger Avenue	4200 block
Ponca Street	902 -926
Bonsal Street	1100 block
Furley Avenue	4600 block
Quail Street	
Parkdale Avenue	3603-3623
Mayfield Avenue	4200 block
N. Rogers Avenue	4500 block
Belair Road	3300 block
Homestead Street	



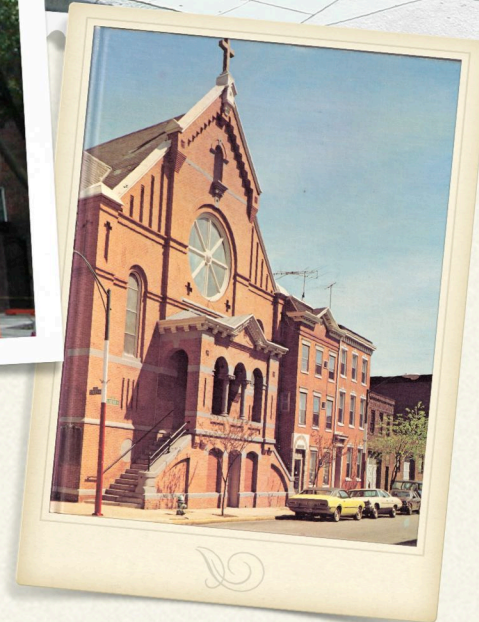
4206 Berger Avenue

256. Berger Avenue in Gardenville is neatly lined with the tidy homes characteristic of Northeast Baltimore

Starting in 1928, on Berger Avenue, Pasquale became a contractor building rowhouses throughout Baltimore, pausing during the Great Depression. Resuming, he was able to employ all 4 of his sons and a daughter, Ann, as the Executive Secretary. His brother ran the Carney Sand & Gravel Company. Other businesses were trucking, transportation, coal and fuel oil.

Joseph and Irid (Jo-Jo and Idee) arrived within a year of each other, followed by an additional eighteen first cousins... but, instead of living within blocks of each other, were spread out across the city. The uniting, common theme, was the family and the ties which bond us together. It could have been Granby St., or Berger Av. Family isn't the most important thing... it's the *only thing*!





Known as Frank & Dan Marine (due to discrimination against Italians), Pasquale was the builder of the St. Leo's School in 1930. A plaque in the lobby attests to this fact. The parish was the center of our family life, as well as for the entire community. The Baptisms, Weddings, Communion, Confirmations - - even Funeral Masses united families, neighbors and friends.



Junior, John, Buddy, Bobbie .
Lizzie, Annie, Ida, Lucy, Bess, Sylvia, Al, Do, Carm
Jane, Nancy, Antoinette, Ninetta

24th Annual
PELLEGRINI PICNIC
"MEET THE COUSINS"
SUNDAY, MAY 4, 1986

ted below are the programs we had thru the years:

- 1963 - Story Hour on Grandpop Antonio Pellegrini
- 1964 - Games, Sack Race, etc.
- 1965 - Beauty Contest
- 1966 - Father's Day Program
- 1967 - Teenage Contest-Dancing and Singing
- 1968 - Mr. and Mrs. America Contest
- 1969 - Games
- 1970 - ?
- 1971 - Glad Hatters Contest
- 1972 - Today Is Italian Day
- 1973 - Amateur Show
- 1974 - Imitate Television or Movie Star
- 1975 - A Gay '90 Show
- 1976- Bicentennial Year
- 1977 - Hawaiian Show



Top Left: June 1956, Family group photo. Top Right: About 1958, Evesham Avenue.
Annual picnics, starting in 1963, were held at Patapsco State Park every May up to about 2003.



After an unsuccessful attempt to gain entry in 1993, the first inside viewing of the ancestral home by a descendant was in May 1998 with Ann Marie and Mary Jo. Later that year, Anthony Pellegrini and Maria Pica joined Frank to plan construction; completed in 2002.



Top: Farewell to 4206 Berger Avenue; Sunday June 25, 2006
 Bottom Left: Easter at Irid Naver's house; Right: Christmas at John Pica's house.



With few exceptions, all deceased family members have been interred in Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery; most are near the Chapel Hill section in close proximity.





SAN DONATO VAL DI COMINO

The origins of the Pellegrini Family lie midway between Rome and Naples, at the foothills of the Appenine Mountain Pass of the Abruzzo National Park . The original ancestral home was re-acquired in 2000 after a prolonged legal battle with squatters.